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NEWSPAPER ARTICLE "NAVY CUTS HAZARDOUS WASTE CLEANUP FUNDS"  
MILLINGTON SUPPACT TN  
10/26/1995  
THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

# Navy cuts hazardous waste cleanup funds

By Tom Bailey Jr.  
The Commercial Appeal

The program to clean up environmental hazards on land the Navy plans to give to Millington will receive \$1.3 million less than requested this fiscal year, but officials don't expect big delays as a result.

Memphis Naval Support Activity at Memphis plans to transfer 1,900 acres on its

## MILLINGTON

north side to Millington. However, hazardous waste sites have to be identified and removed first.

The city plans to use the area for an industrial/office park and airport, and wants to take control of at least some of the property as soon as it can.

David Porter of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command gave a status report this week

to the Restoration Advisory Board. The board's mission is to keep the community informed about the environmental cleanup of the base.

The cleanup management team for the base had asked for \$2,882,500 for fiscal 1996, which started Oct. 1, to remove asbestos from buildings, remove underground tanks, investigate contaminated solid waste sites and remove contamination.

Instead, the Memphis NSA

program received \$1,574,000. The money comes from the Base Realignment and Closure Commission funding, since the base was downsized as a result of action taken by the 1993 base-closing commission.

Porter told the board that he does not expect the shortfall in money to slow the cleanup, especially if the Millington program receives full funding next fiscal year.

Jim Ferguson, planner/coordinator for the Base Reuse

Committee, expressed concern that underground, concrete fuel oil tanks will delay the development of an industrial park on the northwest side of the base. The tract is sandwiched between the Illinois Central Railroad on the west and the airfield on the east.

"It's the only property that has any chance of early development," and it's much needed for prospective industry, Ferguson said.

In other developments, the

board approved Porter's recommendation that one of three libraries of environmental documents pertaining to the base cleanup be eliminated. The library at Millington City Hall, which was for the exclusive use of Restoration Advisory Board Members, ran out of space. Other libraries remain at the Millington Branch Library and Memphis NSA Library.

The next Restoration Advisory Board meeting is set for Jan. 23.